



**Frederick County  
Government  
Frederick, Maryland**

# *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 4, 2011

## **COMMISSIONERS TO INTERVIEW CHARTER BOARD CANDIDATES**

**FREDERICK, MD** – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners selected 15 candidates to interview for the new Frederick County Charter Board. The interviews will take place on Thursday, March 10, at fifteen minute intervals, starting at 6:45 p.m. in the third floor meeting room of Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Md.

The interviews are open to the public and will be televised live on FCG TV, cable channel 19. The interviews may also be viewed live and in archives after the session on the county's webstreaming page at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/video](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/video).

Board President Blaine Young commented, "We are running a very open and transparent process for the selection of a diverse group of members for the Charter Board. We invite the public to watch the interviews and provide us with feedback. Our goal is to have many different constituencies represented on this board to ensure that it reflects the interests of a variety of our citizens. We are moving on a fast track in order to get the Charter Board set up and moving ahead so that we can bring it to the voters for a decision."

Originally, 52 county citizens/registered voters applied to volunteer on the new Charter Board; Tom Lynch withdrew his application due to health reasons. The board unanimously agreed that the Charter Board would have nine members and three non-voting alternates.

The board will interview the following 15 candidates in this order: Rocky Mackintosh, Bob Kresslein, Jeff Holtzinger, Dana French, Sheila Leatherbury, Debra Borden, Doug Browning, Hayden Duke, Fred Anderson, Richard Johnson, James Hoover, Ken Coffey, Tom Browning, Earl Robbins (telephone interview) and Joan Aquilino-McIntyre.

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To better facilitate the review process, the commissioners have asked the candidates to answer a series of questions prior to their interviews in order to get an overview of their interests, background and commitment to creating a charter to change the present form of government in Frederick County.

Questions posed to each candidate include:

1. Why should you be appointed to this board?
2. Describe what experience you have had in writing, revising, interpreting or following a charter (or constitution or bylaws).
3. Please share with us your vision of what the charter should look like. Do you support a countywide police force or the current form that we have now with a full service Sheriff's Office?
4. The process of drafting a charter can be time-consuming. Are you committed to devoting the time necessary? Can you commit to completing the task?
5. How do you operate in a group setting? Do you have experience reaching consensus in groups?
6. Once the charter is drafted, voters will need to be educated so they are prepared to vote on its passage in November 2012. Will you assist/participate in a voter education effort after the charter draft is completed?
7. There is a slight chance that the board appointees may be subject to a special election. Are you willing to undergo that process?
8. What are some of the possible pitfalls from the charter form of government that could cause the waste of tax dollars? How can these pitfalls be avoided?
9. How much power should a county executive have versus a council member?
10. How do you think transparency and public involvement can best be maintained?
11. Describe the types of powers that you would propose be vested in a county executive and a county council in an ideal charter government. What checks and balances would you propose?
12. How many members would you propose be on the county council? Would you propose that some or all of the council members be elected from distinct districts?

Once appointed, the Charter Board will have up to 18 months to draft a charter for submission to the Board of County Commissioners, and then for a referendum election by the voters of Frederick County. The proposed charter is anticipated to go before the voters at the November 6, 2012, general election.

The Charter of Frederick County would change the present commissioner form of government to charter home rule government if approved by the voters in the November 6, 2012, general election. The proposed charter document would define the duties, power, rules, procedures, structure of local county government and the rights of voters/citizens.

For additional information on the Charter Board, contact Legislative Coordinator Ragen Cherney at 301-600-1049 or via e-mail at [rcherney@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:rcherney@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

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